

And that's what it is our obligation to do, because that little boy—I'll keep that picture with me until the day I die of that kid standing by the fireplace. And I'll remember that our obligation is to all those little boys that can still stand in front of the fireplace on holidays and have those pictures taken. And if we do that, this country is going to be just fine.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Jeffrey H. Erickson, president and CEO of Trans World Airlines and dinner cochair; Jean Carnahan, wife of Governor Mel Carnahan; and Becky Cook, secretary of state, and Bob Holden, State treasurer, Missouri. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Memorandum on Employees Affected by Hurricane Fran and its Aftermath

September 10, 1996

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Excused Absence for Employees
Affected by Hurricane Fran and its
Aftermath

I am deeply concerned about the devastating losses caused by Hurricane Fran and the impact on the well-being and livelihood of our fellow Americans who have been affected by this disaster. Elements of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster.

As part of this effort, I request heads of executive departments and agencies who have Federal civilian employees in the areas designated as disaster areas because of the effects of Hurricane Fran and its aftermath to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is faced with a personal emergency because of this storm and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up

efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 11.

Remarks to the Regional Meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology September 11, 1996

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to this regional meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology. I'm sorry I can't be there with you. But our administration is very well represented by my Science Adviser, Jack Gibbons, and Fred Hansen, Sherri Goodman, and Al Alm, and I thank them all for being there.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Governor Romer for working with Jack to host this event and to thank Ralph Peterson and the other Colorado industry leaders who have worked so hard to put this meeting together.

I know that you're very committed both to promoting economic growth and job creation in Colorado and protecting your priceless environment. And by deploying a new generation of innovative environmental technologies and building a world-leading environmental industry, you know that you can do both. Promoting the development and deployment of new environmental technologies by American industry enables you to do a better job of cleaning up and protecting the environment at lower cost. And by strengthening the United States environmental technology industry, of course, an industry that already has created more than 1.2 million high-wage and high-skill jobs for American workers, you're making America's economy and our environment stronger. And of course, you're especially helping Colorado.

I'm very pleased that there are so many industry, environmental, and State and local government leaders here today working together to make this happen. I look forward to hearing your recommendations. And again, I want to thank Jack Gibbons and the

other members of our administration team for being there, and I want to thank all of you for being there.

Thank you very, very much, and have a great meeting.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. by telephone from the Ramada Inn in Pueblo, CO, to the conference meeting in Golden, CO. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado and Ralph Peterson, president, CH2M Hill Corp.

Remarks in Pueblo, Colorado **September 11, 1996**

Thank you, thank you very much. Good morning. It's great to be back in Pueblo again. I want to say first, Dr. Martinez, thank you for welcoming us here to the courthouse. And all of you who live here must be so proud of this magnificent building. I love it. I think we should give Josh Rael another hand for doing such a good job on the National Anthem. *[Applause]*

I want to thank all of those who spoke before me, Mike Beatty, Al Gurule, Lt. Governor Gail Shoettler, and Tom Strickland. I hope you will send Tom Strickland to the United States Senate. I have a lot of confidence in him, and as I'll say in a moment, when these people present themselves for Congress and the Senate, there are real consequences to your lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm glad to be back here today because this is an election season, but elections should not be divorced from our lives. The choices we make as citizens for those who represent us affect the way we live after the elections are over.

As I was sitting here looking at Mayor Webb making his remarks, and my longtime friend and former colleague, Governor Romer making his remarks, and I couldn't help thinking how lucky Colorado is to be served by public officials like this who can make a positive difference in people's lives.

I also have to tell that I was talking with Patricia Heine before she got up here to speak; she told me that she had become a police officer 7 years ago, after working on raising her sons. And I thought to myself, it's a pretty great country when a mother who

loves her children and cares for other people's children has the willingness, the ability, and is given the opportunity to go back to work in public safety to make this community and this State and our country a better place. And we thank you.

Today I want to talk, as Governor Romer said and Mayor Webb said, about the issue of crime, about the link between crime and drugs, and about what we have to do to make our streets safer if we're going to realize our vision for the 21st century. As your President, I have worked hard on a simple, straightforward vision for the next century, and especially for the children in this audience. We're only 4 years away from a brand new century and a brand new millennium. We're undergoing enormous changes, as all of you know, in the way we work and live and relate to each other and the rest of the world.

I want us to go into that next century as the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity. I want us to go into that century with all the American people in our mosaic from all different ethnic groups, all different walks of life, growing together and being stronger together in a close-knit community that help each other to make the most of their own lives. And I want to make sure the American dream is alive and well for every single man or woman, boy or girl, who is willing to work for it. And that is my vision: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and everybody has a place in our American community. I hope you'll help me to realize that.

We've worked very hard in the last 4 years to create economic opportunity, and this country is better off than it was 4 years ago. We have the lowest unemployment rate in 7½ years; 10½ million new jobs. We have 4½ million new homeowners. The deficit has gone down for 4 years in a row for the first time since the 1840's, before the Civil War. *(Applause.)* Wages are rising again for average working people for the first time in a decade. There are 1.8 million fewer people on welfare today than there were the day I took the oath of office.

Child support collections are up 40 percent; 40 million people have had their pensions protected; 12 million Americans have taken some time off in the family leave law,